FEB. 8-9 2001

**Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association**

# Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met on February 8 in St. John's and Joint Council (Branch Presidents and Executive) met on February 9. This issue of Executive Notes is designed to provide you with a summary of major decisions occurring at these meetings.

For further information please contact any member of Provincial Executive or the staff person as indicated.

**Collective Bargaining**

Executive members provided updates on their Branch visitations regarding the Opening Proposals and any questions or feedback from the membership. In general there was positive feedback on the Opening Package but teachers want to wait to see what happens throughout the negotiation process. Based on discussions concerning the negotiation process, the following motion was passed by Provincial Executive:

> A paper will be developed outlining and describing the spectrum of possible job actions available to the Association along with the pros and cons of each to be presented to the March Executive meeting for debate and discussion.

A focus group session took place at the Joint Council meeting to give Branch Presidents the opportunity to provide feedback on the Opening Package as well as to update them on the collective bargaining process to date.

For further information contact Fred Andrews, President, Winston Carter, Vice-President, or Edward Hancock, Assistant Executive Director.

**Business from Standing Committees**

GROUP INSURANCE TRUSTEES

The proposed Group Insurance budget for 2001-02 and 2002-03 was accepted by Provincial Executive for presentation to the Biennial General Meeting.

For further information contact Sean Noah, Chair, Group Insurance Trustees, or Don Ash, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

The proposed policies on School Preparedness and Transfer of Teachers were accepted as presented to Provincial Executive.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, Chair, Membership Benefits and Services Committee, or Lloyd Hobbs, Benefits and Economic Services Committee.

CURRUCULUM COMMITTEE

Based on the research and reaction from teachers, the Association will oppose the Department of Education's proposed time allocations for primary grades and this will be communicated formally to the Minister of Education.

The Association will request that the Minister of Education put in place an organized, well-devised plan of implementation to address the literacy issue, which considers the complex factors which contribute to literacy, and examines research to determine the variety of measures which must be taken to improve literacy. This plan should be a coordinated, comprehensive model developed through consultation with the NLTA and other partners. A recent issue of President's Digest addresses this issue in more detail.

For further information contact Ken Kavanagh, Chair, Curriculum Committee, or René Wicks, Professional Development Division.

**Association Priorities**

An updated copy of NLTA priorities for 2000-01 were provided to Provincial Executive and Joint Council, including an action update on all items. President Fred Andrews reviewed each of the priorities with Branch Presidents and gave a detailed update on the priorities, which are: concluding a collective agreement; quality of work life; classroom issues -- workload; membership involvement/identification with NLTA; and communications: internal/external relations -- building partnerships.

For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

**Pension Administration Issues**

Provincial Executive discussed two issues arising out of the Pensions Administration Committee. The first of these concerned progress on a possible Interprovincial Reciprocal Transfer Agreement. At the present time a draft agreement is under consideration by pension plan administrators in all provinces. However, our provincial government has indicated it is unwilling to participate at the present time due to the current unfunded liability in the T.P.P. and the negative funding implications should there be a large number of requests for transfer of pension credits out of Newfoundland and Labrador. After discussion on this issue, Executive decided that the Association will support the position that the TeachersÕ Pension Plan will not, at this time, be a party to the Interprovincial Reciprocal Agreement. It was also decided that the Association will review and possibly revise its current policy on Interprovincial Transfer of Teachers' Pensions.

The issue of the CPP Integration Formula was also discussed by Executive, arising out of resolution 61 from BGM 1999. Following a discussion of detailed information provided by the TPP actuarial firm, Executive decided that

it would not pursue further the issue of calculating CPP integration offsets on an individual basis. A detailed report on this issue will be provided to BGM 2001, in the Report on Resolutions from BGM 1999.

For further information contact Edward Hancock, Assistant Executive Director.

**Other Business**
The report Administratiors Within NLTA -- The Case for Inclusion was distributed to Executive and Joint Council. This report was prepared as a result of Resolution 19 from the 1999 Biennial General Meeting.

For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.

**Discussion Topics**
Several topics were included in the agendas of the Provincial Executive Meeting and/or the Joint Council meeting for discussion, clarification or feedback. These included educational leave, substitute days, class size, teacher hiring/recruitment, parliamentary procedure, accessibility of staff during grievances and/or around the layoff deadline, pension concerns of young teachers, buyback of university years, and policy enforcement during negotiations.

For further information contact Fred Andrews, President.

**Virtual Teacher Centre**
Joint Council was updated on the status of the Virtual Teacher Centre. It was also announced that Alex Hickey, a teacher presently seconded as Director of Program Development with the Department of Education, has been hired as co-ordinator of the Virtual Teacher Centre.

For further information contact Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director or René Wicks, Professional Development Division.

**NLTA Awards**
The following awards will be presented at the 2001 NLTA Biennial Convention:

- Barnes Award -- Brian Vardy, REaD Special Interest Council;
- Special Recognition Award -- Nelson Larson, Labrador West Branch;
- Bancroft Award -- Charles Dillon, St. Mary's Bay Branch. Honorary Membership within NLTA will be awarded to Heber Walters at the 2001 BGM.

For further information contact Fred Andrews, President.

## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for March 8 and 9 in

St. JohnÕs. For further information contact Fred Andrews, President or Wayne Noseworthy, Executive Director.